(b) whether supply of power being made to the State has been reduced to 50 megawatts;

(c) if so, the reasons for reducing the power supply; and

(d) by when the supply of power would be resumed as per earlier allotment?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) In view of less than anticipated growth in demand for power in the Eastern Region (ER), in ealier years, the unallocated power of NTPC stations in the ER as well as the shares temporarily surrendered by ER constituents, had been allocated to States/UTs in other regions over the last few years. However, in recent years ER constituents have been demanding repatriation of the power surrendered by them as well as allocation of unallocted power to them in view of the increase in their requirement. Consequently, the allocation to States/UTs in other regions from the ER has been decreasing. Accordingly, the allocation of ER power to Madhya Pradesh also got reduced to 50 MW.

In November, 2006, following the sudden outage of Ranganadi HEP and consequent shortage of power in Assam, 46 MW power from Eastern Region (ER) was allocated to Assam by reducing the allocations of beneficiaries of ER power, including about 4 MW from the allocation of Madhya Pradesh.

In view of the foregoing the assistance to Madhya Pradesh from the central plants in the Eastern Region is not likely to be increased to the earlier level of 300 MW.

Fellowship for SCs and STs

†*188. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fellowship is provided by Government to the students of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes for higher education;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, the reasons why the students of the Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes are facing difficulties to get the amount of fellowship provided to them during the last three years;

(c) whether it is a fact that Government have added some new condition for getting fellowship resulting in difficulty to the students of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in getting fellowship;

(d) if so, the details of newly imposed conditions; and

(e) the steps Government are taking to remove the said difficulties so that the scheme may achieve its objective?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MEIRA KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The central sector scheme of "Rajiv Gandhi National Fellowship (RGNF)" has been introduced since 2005-06 for providing financial assistance to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students for pursuing research studies leading to M. phil. and Ph.D. by this Ministry and Ministry of Tribal Affairs and is being implemented through University Grant Commission (UGC).

(b) No such complaint has been received in this Ministry.

(c) The Ministry has not added any new condition in the scheme after introduction of scheme.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Setting up of power exchanges

*189. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the details of proposed power exchange in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the functioning of such exchange;

(c) whether the country have sufficient transmission network to facilitate transfer of power;

(d) whether it will be incumbent upon all the power producers to trade through the exchange;